

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00459 251425Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAM-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 CU-02 /090 W

----- 068266

R 251300Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2399

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: THESSALONIKI CELEBRATES RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY

1. SUMMARY: THESSALONIKI CELEBRATED FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY JULY 24 IN A PHYSICALLY RESTRAINED BUT VOCALLY UNINHIBITED MANNER. MOST IMPORTANT MEETING OF DAY WAS THAT ORGANIZED BY MUNICIPALITY AND HELD IN PALAIS DES SPORTS WHERE CAPACITY CROWD HEARD LEFTIST MAYOR PAPADOPOULOS AND PRINCIPAL SPEAKER PROF. MANESIS ROUTINELY CASTIGATE US FOR ITS SUPPORT OF THE JUNTA. EACH, HOWEVER, DEVOTED GREATER PART OF HIS SPEECH TO URGING CONTINUED STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRACY IN GREECE. LARGE GROUPS OF KKE (INTERIOR) AND PASOK SUPPORTERS BID NOT SHOW SIMILAR RESTRAINT, CHANTING WELL-REHEARSED SLOGANS AGAINST US AND JUNTA. MEETING BROKE UP QUIETLY AFTER HOUR WND A HALF WITH NO APPARENT DISTURBANCES. END SUMMARY.

2. THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT THESSALONIKI MUNICIPALITY UNDER LEFTIST MAYOR PAPADOPOULOS WOULD ORGANIZE CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARY OF DOWNFALL OF JUNTA AND RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY. AUTHORITIES, HOWEVER, HAD APPARENT DIFFICULTY

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PAGE 02 THESSA 00459 251425Z

DECIDING ON TYPE OF CEREMONY AND WHERE IT SHOULD BEHELD.

INITIALLY, RALLY WAS TO BE IN CENTRAL SAINT SOPHIA SQUARE AS PROVISIONALLY ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK. LATER DOUBTS APPARENTLY AROSE OVER POSSIBILITY OF DEMONSTRATION GETTING OUT OF HAND AND NOT UNTIL LAST MINUTE WAS LOCATION FINALLY FIXED AT PALAIS DES SPORTS, A CLOSED GYMNASIUM SEATING APPROXIMATELY TEN THOUSAND, THE EVENING OF JULY 24.

3. CONDUCT OF CEREMONY WAS LOW-KEY. PAPADOPOULOS OPENED PROGRAM WITH BRIEF INTRODUCTORY SPEECH IN WHICH HE CASTIGATED US FOR SUPPORT OF THE JUNTA BUT DID NOT DWELL ON THIS THEME, STRESSING INSTEAD NEED FOR DEMOCRACY TO CONTINUE TO GROW IN GREECE. HE CLOSED WITH A MINUTE OF SILENCE FOR THOSE SUFFERING IN CYPRUS, WHICH CALMED AUDIENCE. FOLLOWING AND PRINCIPAL SPEAKER WAS PROF. ARISTOVOULOS MANESIS, DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES AT UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI, A UBIQUITOUS LEFT-WING COMMENTATOR ON POLITICAL SUBJECTS WHO ENLARGED ON PAPADOPOULOS' THEMES AND ALSO CALLED FOR REMOVAL OF AMERICAN PRESENCE IN GREECE.

4. AUDIENCE WAS ARRANGED IN WELL-ORGANIZED PARTY GROUPINGS, LARGEST AND LOUDEST BEING KKE INTERIOR, WHICH REPEATED INTERRUPTED SPEAKER WITH CALLS FOR AMERICAN EXPULSION FROM GREECE AND GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO. VARIATIONS ON THIS THEME WERE CHANTED FROM MORE SUBDUED PASOK SECTION. KKE INTERIOR ALSO OUTSHONE PASOK BY BLANKETING AREA WITH LEAFLETS. PASOK HAD NONE AND ONLY SIGNIFICANT COMPETITION IN LEAFLETS CAME FROM ND YOUTH ORGANIZATION.

5. IN SPITE OF CHANTING, MEETING ENDED QUIETLY WITH GREEK NATIONAL ANTHEM, AND PARTICIPANTS DISPERSED WITH NO EVIDENT PROBLEMS. TERMINATION WAS FACILITATED BY FACT THAT ARENA HAD TO BE CLEARED FOR PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED BASKETBALL GAME.

6. EVIDENCE OF MUNICIPALITY'S CONFIDENCE THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS WAS MINIMAL POLICE PRESENCE AT ARENA, NOR WAS ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN POLICE PRESENCE NOTED ABOUT CITY. AUDIENCE' CONDUCT AS WELL AS TENOR OF SPEECHES BY PAPADOPOULOS AND MANESIS, INDICATED PRIOR AGREEMENT TO AVOID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 THESSA 00459 251425Z

ANY POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE, PROBABLY WITH PREVIOUS DAY'S INCIDENT IN ATHENS IN MIND (ATHENS 5567).  
BRENNAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMOCRACY, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Subject:** THESSALONIKI CELEBRATES RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY  
**TAGS:** PINT, GR, (MANESIS), (PAPADOPOULOS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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